Amendments To Claims

1.   (Cancelled).

2.   (Currently Amended) A method for generating a panoramic image, comprising:

capturing a series of image frames each of a portion of a panoramic image scene;

combining the image frames into a panoramic image while the series of image frames is being obtained wherein ~~the step of~~ capturing comprises

capturing a first image frame having a resolution that corresponds to a resolution of the panoramic image;

capturing a second image frame having a resolution that corresponds to the resolution of the panoramic image if a relative motion between the first and second image frames is detected.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising determining the relative motion by capturing a series of image frames having a resolution that is lower than the resolution of the panoramic image.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the lower resolution is selected to maintain an overlap in the image frames having the lower resolution in response to the relative motion.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising detecting the relative motion using a motion sensor.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein combining comprises combining the first and the second image frames in response to the relative motion.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising discarding an overlapping portion of one of the first and second image frames from the memory.

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8.   (Currently Amended) A method for generating a panoramic image, comprising:

capturing a series of image strips each encompassing a sub area of an image sensor used to sample the panoramic image while a camera that contains the image sensor is panned;

combining the image strips into the panoramic image while the series of image strips is being obtained.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the image strips have a set of dimensions that are selected to maintain an overlap in the image strips.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising adjusting the dimensions to maintain the overlap.

11.   (Previously Presented) A method for generating a panoramic image, comprising:

capturing a series of image frames each of a portion of a panoramic image scene;

combining the image frames into a panoramic image while the series of image frames is being obtained and providing a visual feedback to a user that indicates the progress of the panoramic image wherein providing a visual feedback comprises providing a depiction of areas of the panoramic image that need to be re-sampled.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein providing a visual feedback comprises providing a depiction of missing areas of the panoramic image.

13.   (Cancelled).

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising capturing a set of image frames that define a set of boundaries of the panoramic image.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further

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comprising:

performing a zoom in on an object of interest in the panoramic image;

capturing an image frame that provides a sample of the object of interest such that the image frame of the object of interest has a higher resolution than the image frames obtained from a remainder of the panoramic image;

recording a set of metadata pertaining to the zoom;

combining the image frame of the object of interest with the remainder of the panoramic image in response to the metadata.

16.   (Previously Presented) A camera, comprising:

image sensor for capturing a series of image frames each of a portion of a panoramic image scene including a first image frame having a resolution that corresponds to a resolution of a panoramic image and a second image frame having a resolution that corresponds to the resolution;

processor that combines the first and second image frames into the panoramic image while the series of image frames is being obtained if a relative motion between the first and second image frames is detected.

17.   (Original) The camera of claim 16, wherein the image frames include one or more image frames having a resolution that corresponds to a resolution of the panoramic image and one or more image frames having a resolution that is lower than the resolution of the panoramic image.

18.   (Previously Presented) The camera of claim 16, wherein the processor determines the relative motion.

19.   (Original) The camera of claim 16, further comprising a motion sensor.

20.   (Original) The camera of claim 16, further comprising a memory for storing portions of the image frames for the panoramic image.

21. (Original) The camera of claim 16, wherein the image frames each comprise a strip of the panoramic image scene.

22. (Original) The camera of claim 16, further comprising means for providing a visual feedback to a user that indicates the progress of the panoramic image.

23. (Original) The camera of claim 16, further comprising means for performing a zoom in on an object of interest in the panoramic image such that the image sensor captures an image frame of the object of interest having a higher resolution than the image frames obtained from a remainder of the panoramic image and the processor records a set of metadata pertaining to the zoom.

24. (Original) The camera of claim 23, wherein the processor combines the image frame of the object of interest with the remainder of the panoramic image in response to the metadata.

25. (New) A camera, comprising:
image sensor for capturing a series of image strips each encompassing a sub area of the image sensor while the camera pans;
processor that combines the image strips into a panoramic image while the series of image strips is being obtained.

26. (New) The camera of claim 25, wherein the image strips have a set of dimensions that are selected to maintain an overlap in the image strips.

27. (New) The camera of claim 26, wherein the processor adjusts the dimensions to maintain the overlap.